Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevation of Bombina variegata peptide 8 in mice with collagen-induced arthritis

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Reviewer: Kutty Selva Nandakumar

Reviewer’s report:

It is interesting to read the manuscript by Kurosaka et al., entitled, “Elevation of Bombina variegata peptide 8 in mice with collagen-induced arthritis” but there are some concerns.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. There is no information available in this manuscript on the following items:
   How many mice were used in each group?
   How the animals were housed (individually or together as a group) before starting CIA and during the experiment?
   How many times the CIA experiment was done? It appears that it has been done only once. In that case, experiment needs to be repeated.
   What kind of treatment is used for control mice? Is it un-immunized mice, PBS or acetic acid emulsified in adjuvant-immunized mice??

2. How CIA experiment was done? The authors cite their own reference (no.11) for CIA. But nowhere in that paper CIA was used. That paper deals with collagen antibody induced arthritis (CAIA) with anti-collagen monoclonal antibodies and the effect of endostatin on CAIA. CAIA and CIA are not the same!!!

   Source of collagen used, immunization protocol, adjuvant etc. should be included in this manuscript.

3. How many mice were used in histological analysis? Are the figures shown representative pictures??

4. How many mice were used for expression analysis? Since BV8 belongs to the VEGF family, it would also be interesting to know the expression level of VEGF in these mice and whether there is any similarity exists between BV8 and VEGF expression?

5. For more appreciation of this work, it would be good to show which kind of infiltrating cells are BV8+ (Mac, neutrophils etc.?) by immunohistochemistry.

6. Since that authors claim positive correlation between expression level of BV8+ and arthritis, it would be more informative to include the histology picture to show
the cartilage and bone erosions and the cells entering the erosion site, and whether they are BV8+ or not?

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests